

As a former, three-year subscriber to XM Satellite Radio, I am writing to you today in regards to the proposed merger between XM Satellite Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio. I feel that the proposed merger has already negatively affected the content of XM Satellite Radio (which led to my cancellation), and I fear that if the merger is allowed to go through, the situation will only get worse.

I do not understand how this proposed merger is even being considered, when taking into consideration the monopolistic repercussions that accompany it. With only two satellite radio providers currently in the marketplace, competition is already slim, and allowing these two companies to merge will only hurt consumers. Sirius CEO Mel Karmazin claims that allowing the merger to go through will not create a monopoly, since XM and Sirius are currently in competition with other things, such as FM radio, MP3 players, and other forms of entertainment. I find this argument to be as insulting to consumers as it is ridiculous. FM radio and MP3 players are not substitutes for satellite radio; they are simply other forms of entertainment. Following Mr. Karmazin's logic, satellite radio is also in competition with DVDs, movie theaters, and video games. Allowing XM and Sirius to merge will effectively eliminate all competition in the satellite radio market, and I think that this is clearly not in the best interests of consumers. I do not even know how Mr. Karmazin can make this argument with a straight face.

As a consumer interested in satellite radio, I want to have options. If the companies are allowed to merge, what mechanism will be in place to ensure fair pricing (XM already raised their price over a year ago to match Sirius' price; who knows what they would have raised it to if Sirius was not in the picture)? What incentive will there be to continue providing commercial-free music (XM has already started saturating select music channels with commercials, something that coincidentally did not happen until *after* the announcement of the merger)? What incentive will there be to push the companies to continue to provide new and exciting content?

When XM and Sirius were issued licenses ten years ago, these licenses included a clause that prohibited the two companies from merging into one company. This clause was obviously included in recognition of the importance of competition in the marketplace. I implore you to stand by this reasoning, and to reject the proposed merger between XM and Sirius. This proposed merger would destroy the incentives that come with competition, and would clearly not be in the public interest of American consumers, despite whatever "spin" Mr. Karmazin tries to put on the situation. I was once ecstatic about the seemingly endless possibilities of satellite radio. I urge you to do the right thing and to reject the proposed merger, so that we

may one day see these possibilities become realities. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
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